



Windward

Sailing at its best

January 2016

Discover sailing day



Above: *Getting ready for a lifetime experience ...aspiring sailors wait their turn.*

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From the Commodore's Desk

SYC, events capital of Somers!

THIS January has been full of events for both the sailors and the social members. So many, that we had to get off to a head start in December with a revised format for our new members function. This attracted more than 40 new members who had joined in the past 12 months and was held after a race so as to see the club in action and meet existing members over a drink at the bar.

We had an exotic Arabian Night to bring in the New Year, with 160 Sheiks rattling and rolling to the band Hazard. Lisa Tuck, Di Nutting, Janus, the social committee, created a fabulous Arabian Casbar theme to the decorations and many members toiled in the heat to gild the club. As always Somers people came dressed up for the occasion with the most wonderful creations!

Our new Pacers were a great help in the running of our first start racing and start sailing sessions, both of which were fully booked. Seeing all the young sailors and their families pitching in to make this fun for all and hopefully making many new friends was our aim. The renovated games, training and briefing room downstairs is becoming a fun place for our younger members to hang out. Emma and Simon are the driving force behind the creation of the sailing school and the creation of somewhere for the kids to hang out. Grahame Tiplady was the practical man who did the work downstairs with a small group of helpers.

Discover Sailing Day was another example of a highly successful event put on to attract new

members and share what we have to offer the community. We had 91 registrations over 36 separate families. Some joined on the day and all went away with membership application packages. While it was very windy the highlight was Mike Sandiford, Michael Vandenburg and Simon and

Emma Morris taking the brave for a sail. What I liked best was to see all the blue shirts of the Sailing School team making it all happen on the beach. Amanda Nutting did an excellent job of masterminding and organising all the club members who helped.

As I write this Cheryl is at Boot Camp getting in top shape for the Lady Skippers race and working up an appetite for the Seafood Night. Vic does not need boot camp with 130 meals to prepare! By the time you have read this we will have rolled out the younger set disco, Sandy Point Cruise, Family Games night, Trivia Night, BYO bbq with the Jets band and Talent Night.

The first act of the talent night is a formal one. You should all know a Special General Meeting has been called to update the Club rules. Details are on the Club Notice Board, you will be asked to vote on one resolution which incorporates all the changes. Should you have any questions please call me on 0413 433 620.



- **Chris Gurney**
Commodore

Windward newsletter- February/March edition

If you have a sailing story and/or some pictures that could be used in the next newsletter then please email to jilldoobs@bigpond.com by Friday, 12 February or at the latest by Wednesday, 17 February

Rear Commodore's report

HELLO MEMBERS!

WE have had a mixed bag of sailing since Christmas but still there has been a lot of great time on the water and some very exciting heavy weather sailing.

One of the early New Year highlights was the Discover Sailing Day (see picture below) on Sunday 3 January -where approximately 100 visitors registered with us! Thanks to all those who stepped up to help. Given the windy conditions it was great that we could actually get people out on the water sailing in our new Pacers, the Morris' Hobies and also on SA1. And what a good job the skippers did - thank you Mike, Michael, Simon and Emma. I think a lot of visitors thought they were on amusement park rides! Thanks to all for the success of the day. It helps to keep us an important part of the Somers community.



In the past few weeks we have sailed our first Championship, had a rules update coordinated by Michelle Bursa and Caitlin Davies, completed our Summer Cup series (with the trapezoidal courses that can be tricky when the wind is from the east), had a "Laser Activate" day of intensive Laser coaching, and had three mornings of club coaching with good fleet numbers. Thank you to Robbie, Michelle, Phil and Nick for their coaching expertise.

In amongst that we have also had a Yardstick Pursuit race and a mixed ladies/novice junior/

men's race - something for everyone.

By the time this is published we should have also cruised to Sandy Point and to Point Leo for lunch and Laser racing, as well as holding our own version of Teams Racing.

As a result of having our new Pacer Fleet and new RIB SA2, this season we could run two concurrent Sailing Schools between Christmas and New Year -with further courses in mid January and Sundays in February. Thanks to Emma, Adam and all their helpers for doing such a great job to keep the club young and alive with enthusiastic new sailors.

The new Pacers can now be booked by members via the club website - availability subject to club needs. Please approach me or John Tilleard for further inquiries.

Planning is well advanced for the Westernport Challenge which this year will be held at Cowes YC. As reigning Westernport Challenge champions I urge all Somers Sailors to sail across the sandbar on Saturday 16 January to DEFEND OUR TITLE! Please note that you need to enter this event online - via link emailed to members or on Cowes YC website. Don't worry - I will be reminding everyone at results time!

Westernport Yacht Club is hosting the Western Port Youth Regatta the day after the challenge - Sunday 17 January. This is a coaching regatta designed for all Westernport Sailors under 21 - a very popular event. Information and entry is via the Westernport Yacht Club website.

Special thanks to all the tractor/rescue boat/race control volunteers over this busy period - your time is very much appreciated and it all goes to make the club the great place it is.

Happy Sailing



**- Amanda Nutting
Rear Commodore**

Division 1 report

DECEMBER 2015 saw the completion of the pre-Christmas series which was won by Jeremy Pearce closely followed by Brian Gristwood. Jeremy dropped a 3rd and 5th placing to take the series with 1st and 2nd places. The handicap results were a reverse order. Matt Stone turned up for the last day of the series and took 2nd then 1st placings. Daniel Stone had 1st and 2nd placings on the last day of the series. One notable absence for the last races of the series was Andy Griffin who had a mishap during a cycling training ride, made a mess of his wrist and was forced to take weeks of rest.

The Boxing Day regatta was abandoned and so it came to the Yardstick Pursuit and Summer Cup with the return of Morgan Carter and Andrew Robertson. Jeremy Pearce won the Yardstick Pursuit race closely followed by Andrew Robertson. The Summer Cup series is still under way at the time of writing with Jeremy and Brian equal 1st and one race remaining. The Summer Cup series has generally been subjected to typical strong easterly winds with many choosing avoid damage by staying away.

Division 2 report

OF the seven races scheduled over the holiday period there isn't much to report as most were abandoned or the sailors decided to abandon, but some of us turned up on the nice days, such as Yardstick Pursuit which was dominated by Adam, except when Steph got in front for a short time, and Malcolm not far behind. The finishing order for DIV II was Adam, Steph, Malcolm, Steve W, Steve Schaper, and Peter T. Summer Cup 1 was a tussle between Malcolm and Steph up front with Dillon and Maz keeping us honest but they unfortunately decided to go around a fourth time.

During the Christmas period the Mosquito National titles were held at Rye YC and Somers YC were represented in the spinnaker division by Matt Stone, Daniel Stone, Michelle Bursa and Robbie Lovig.

Matt Stone had a series of 1st placings and was looking in a great position to take the national title until the wind either dropped out completely or came in at 20 knots. Matt finished 2nd overall and Daniel finished 3rd overall. Well done to Matt and Daniel on their respective performances. Michelle finished a creditable 5th overall on a borrowed Mozzie and had a number of placings including two 2nd placings on the last day of the series. Robie Lovig also had a series of placings on a borrowed Mozzie and was in contention for the title but had a number of DNC results. Rumour has it that was the result of an upwind/downwind collision resulting in yacht damage.

Michelle also returned for the ladies/Novice/Male Skipper race and came 1st overall sailing Daniel Stone's Mozzie. Well done Michelle.

- Peter Foulsum

Steve W, and Peter T a little way behind. Summer Cup 2 start was a bit hectic with Phil calling Malcolm to go "up'Up'Up", but Steph holding his proper upwind course, got the jump on both with the 'best start ever', and leading them to the finish, with Malcolm not far behind, followed by Stan, Phil, Steve W, and Peter T. Summer Cup 3 saw Emma as the only entrant, but was abandoned, as was SC4, the OTB race, and SC5. Let's hope the nasty easterlies blow themselves out soon so we can get some real Somers Sailing.

- Steph Schwarz

**Sea rescue needs more help to help others.
Contact Garry Morris 5983 1093 or gnsmorris@yahoo.com.au**

Division 3 report

COMPLIMENTS of the season to all Division 3 sailors, I trust your Christmas and New Year celebrations were enjoyable.

Sailing in Division 3 continues to be competitive with the Tasars and Contender establishing themselves as the boats to beat this season (what a surprise!!). Chris and Toby took out the Pre-Christmas series followed by Mal in his green machine, with Michael and Georgia not that far behind.

Championship heat 1 was all about the Contender with Patrick doing a "Kathy Watt" (for the youngsters in the division this means he was so far ahead, that second place Michael and Georgia could be forgiven for wondering why they did not get the gun for being first over the line!!).

Fair winds (this is a relative term) greeted the fleet over the Christmas break with the visiting Tasars setting a very high bar with some impres-

sive up wind boat speed. The Summer Cup H3 trapezoid course that was set for an easterly/SE breeze and proved way too complicated for all Division 3 sailors who all managed to record DSQ for not sailing out to the gate located out near seal rock, pre crossing the finish line. (Note only three sailors from memory actually sailed to the line). The 25 knot breeze and confused sea also took its toll on the fleet with numerous cap-sizes but thankfully no damage.

Finally, I know you are all very keen to hear about the yardstick review for the Finn and I am pleased to advise that initial indications from sympathetic persons located very, very deep within the ICJ is that it will be set around that of a Pacer (no spinnaker) or maybe even a Hobie Hawk, I expect this to be ratified shortly and will update you all accordingly.

See you on the water.

- Nick Carter

Division 5 report

WE have had some great racing, good fleets and mostly perfect winds over the past month. It is great to be back in holiday mode at Somers with some sailing on almost every day!

The Pre-Christmas Series came down to the final race until the winner was decided. Well to done Grahame in his Sabre Lyverbird -1st on Yardstick and Handicap.

Summer Cup has seen more participants from Division 5 and some of us have even learnt which way to go on a trapezoid course! Dianna and Harry in their Pacer Rasscal sailed a fantastic Race 2 finishing 1st on yardstick. Harry must have been sharing with his mum all he learnt about racing in tide in sailing school start racing this year!

It has been great to welcome some new sailors to Division 5. Peter and Maureen Laverty in their Pacer Sunnyside Down, Ida and Evan Gaulke in their 125 Lucky Cannywackle and Ben and Jack Thompson in their Pacer Blue Fin have completed their first races with great enthusiasm. They have all even raced in 20+knots and come

in smiling! Well done- you are sailors after my own heart.

The Sabre and Pacer Victorian Championships are coming up soon. Hope some of you will consider entering. Both classes really welcome average club sailors and are not just for the elite. I can't stress enough how much your sailing will improve from the experience and how much fun it will be. The Sabres are at Blairgowrie on 27-28 February and the Pacers are at Westernport on 12-14 March. I believe the Pacers have a without spinnaker division and club training Pacers can enter too. I am happy to assist anyone with entry or getting their boats to these events.

Happy Sailing!

- Wendy Wilson



Above: Maureen and Peter Laverty racing in 20knots.

Division 4 report

BLAST the wind!! Today (6th Summer Cup) we had 10 starters in the Lasers but it was too much for half the fleet.

At the time of writing looking over a glorious scene, Maddi Poon appears to have the full rigs and the radial covered (yep, she thrashed them!). It as an awesome effort by Lachie staying out in the fresh breeze to pick up a great result. Harrison held on for the Summer Cup series win with Maddi winning handicap. Maddi and Lucy in the 4.7 rigs filled 2nd and 3rd on line honours. Maddi and Lucy had a tight battle in the "lighter" race with Lucy edging ahead on the last lap. Lachie and Courtney weren't far behind having their own battle. This is what's great about Div4 now. There are lots of individual battles going on

throughout a race. David and Steve had had some terrific contests in the full rigs.

Hopefully the wind will be gentler for the 2nd Championship this Saturday and we can get a full cohort of Lasers (~12). Harrison cleaned up the first championship with David 2nd and Lucy 3rd.

Harrison and Lucy competed in the ISAF World Cup held at Royal Melbourne in December. Around 35 radials and 4.7's competed and the standard was intense, even hotter than a Nationals. Both were pretty happy with mid-20's results. It was an exciting series with a 42 knot squall hitting the fleet one day. Several Lasers ended up on Elwood beach, without skippers.....

- Nick Ede

Youngerset report

MANDY from the Dolphin Research Institute came to speak about our Bay and the lovely creates we have within it. With a turn out of more than 120 people, it was a topic that many wanted to hear about.

Especially the Bottle Nose Dolphins that are common to our area. Mandy was very informative and shared some very interesting facts. One was that dolphins do not ever sleep, but are able to turn half their brain off at a time to rest. You can see this when they maybe floating around near the surface.

Many good questions were asked from young and old, with Mandy doing well to answer all of them. Our dolphins are unique as they are interested in humans and our ways of life. They seem to be attracted to us which is different from other

groups of dolphins.

Mandy emphasised that we are not to approach dolphins, but if they approach us then just enjoy the experience.

Our Youngerset Disco was a great success, with just under 100 boogying children. The age range was from 4 to 17, with majority partying till closing time. The older children did a great job of setting up for the night with lights, blackout curtains, and a big screen to follow the dance moves. Some parents joined in and totally embarrassed their children for a few songs.

Pack up was very efficient from the older group with floors swept, cups washed and the music still pumping.

- Emma Morris

Windward Mark Bar and Bistro

Open every Friday evening for members and their guests
Please book via the Somers Yacht Club website
or ring Vic on 0450 784 969 by 5pm on Thursday

Sailing school off to a great start

WITH a great week of light winds and warm weather just after Christmas, our 24 students enrolled had a great week of fun and learning. We had eight Start Racing students learning skills for setting their sails and making their boat go faster. Not to mention the repetitive start sequence practice. Then a heap of other students were learning how to sail for the first time on the club pacers and hawks. The new Pacers performed very well for the beginners, with simple rigging and the mains reefed on a few of the days, the students were able to helm and manoeuvre their boats around a triangle course and thoroughly enjoyed the club boats. The Hawks have also had a face-lift due to wear and tear, with new colourful sails and mainsheets.

We have a number of new junior instructors from our club that are now qualified assistants and helping out during the sailing school season. It is great to have new blood and enthusiasm from the staff, to encourage and role model for these budding sailors we are breeding.

Our January Start Sailing course is fully booked with 24 students, and the adult course already half full. Numbers are going well. We are accepting children and parents in the adult course, but book fast if you want a spot.

Soon on the events calendar we have a Games night and two movie nights coming up. Children are flocking in to enjoy the fun and social side of Somers Yacht Club. Thanks to our new hangout room down stairs they feel they have a place to meet and chat.



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Social News

New Year's Eve

NEW Year's Eve at the Yacht Club was an Arabian Theme. Led by Lisa Tuck and Dianna Nutting a group of members spent three hours transforming the club into a colourful Arabian venue.

The aim of our NYE party at Somers Yacht Club is to be an event which caters for families.

One hundred and sixty members and their guests enjoyed the perfect evening weather. The night began with a visit from two belly dancers who provided a fantastic demonstration of their skill, and then encouraged everyone to join in. Dancing continued through the night to the music of Hazard while members enjoyed Arabian style finger food. Thank you to all who assisted in setting up the venue and clearing the following day.

Thank you to Lisa, Diana and Amanda for their planning and for sharing their creativity and their endless props to make it another special night.



The club house transformed into a Bedouin's tent



Middle Eastern potentate Tim Brock ready for a night of fun.



Above left: Sheikh Gurney with Cheryl arrive for NYE fun. Above right: Steve Clifford and Amanda Nutting arrive at the club with friends Ross and Melissa.



Social News continued

Seafood Night

OUR annual Seafood night was a great success with 130 people joining in Vic's delicious seafood meal. Thank you again to all those who helped set up the room and put up decorations. It is amazing how many transformations the club has over the summer months

BYO BBQ with the Jets

SATURDAY 16 January come along with your own food, plates etc. and enjoy a night watching the sunset dancing to The Jets. The bar will be open.

Annual Talent Night

SATURDAY 23 January, 7pm.

Start thinking now about your performance plan for the Annual Talent Night.'

- Libby Moore



A happy Steph Schwarz relaxes after the Seafood Night.

The allure of Miss Sandy Point

OVER the years the Yachting Westernport cruise to Sandy Point has been a hit and miss affair. Some years a lonely six or seven boats made the cruise and other years in the past a flotilla to rival Dunkirk complete with beach volley ball and other entertainments made the trip. What was missing to revive interest, was the siren effect.

Enter Wendy Davies parading round the club complete with Miss Sandy Point sash, the effect was dramatic, with 22 yachts sailing from Somers including all our new Pacers, all with non sailor crews having a great experience! When we arrived the beach gradually filled up as boats from Rhyll, Merricks, Hastings and Cowes sailed in. Picnic lunches were enjoyed, connections between clubs renewed and the sail home in a brisk wind a real joy. Thank you Miss Sandy Point for a great day!

- Chris Gurney



Waving the flag at Community Day

Cheryl Gurney and Andy Griffin (right) were at the Somers Community Open Day recruiting new members to experience sailing as captured in John Best's pictures below. A number of people expressed interest.



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Vale - Michael McKay 1942-2015

MIKE and Julie settled in Somers from North Balwyn in May 2010, finding the perfect spot for their sea-change in Florida Avenue. After a few years they undertook an extensive renovation as owner builders, with Mike heavily involved in the building process. He thoroughly enjoyed creating a beautiful and bespoke home for him and Julie, with plenty of room for their two daughters and their families.

Mike immersed himself in the Somers community and became involved with a number of local clubs. His membership at the Flinders Golf Club saw him play several times a week, actively working on lowering his handicap and refining his swing. An avid bike rider, he explored and designed rides for cycling friends all over the peninsula to great effect.

While not a sailor himself, Mike loved being out on the water as part of Sea Rescue and became an active member in recent years. Setting courses and completing his marine boat licence

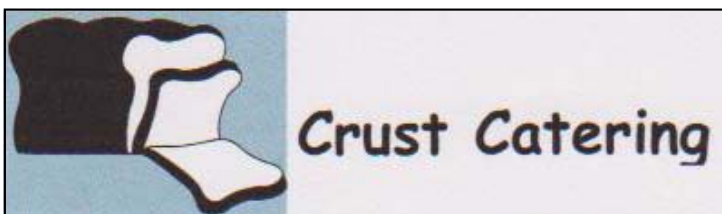


was a highlight for him and he looked forward to becoming even more involved in the club. He particularly enjoyed being able to watch his family sail on Western Port Bay, and much support for them would be heard out on the water on race days.

Trips to the beach with the younger grandchildren and walking the family dogs were also an important part of his daily routine. Between his family, golf, bike riding and the yacht club, it was a busy life for Mike and very much the way he had imagined his retirement to be.

Unfortunately Mike became unwell in September and was diagnosed with cancer shortly afterwards. He passed away peacefully with his family just before Christmas. The McKay family would like to thank the members of Somers Yacht club and the broader community for their kind support after Mike's passing. He will be remembered always by Julie, Tara and Meg and families.

- Andrew Robertson



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Keeping our bar licence safe

Club Liquor Licence - VCGLR No.36069125

OUR club is fortunate in having a liquor licence and we need to ensure that we comply with its conditions so it is important that members understand the rules and regulations that apply and ensure that everyone obeys these rules. Here our licence nominee, **Bob Welch**, explains what is involved.

Conditions of use:

I would like to bring to your attention the details, regulations and the rules of the Somers Yacht Club Liquor Licence. The licence is a Limited Licence renewable yearly. The club has appointed Bob Welch as the nominated (Nominee) person who is the responsible person to the Victorian Government Regulator for application of the rules and regulations of the licence.

The main regulations that apply to the Somers Yacht Club are as follows;
before closing times

1. Signing in of guests whilst the bar is open.

All guests of members must be signed in at the front door of the club on the official register. The Licensing Board will send around without notice inspectors (police, authorized board inspectors.) to check that we are operating the licence according to the rules and regulations.

It is the responsibility of the club member to ensure that all their guests are signed in individually. This occurs separately on all occasions the member has guests.

2. The Area of the club where you can drink alcohol.

There is a map hanging on the bar wall which designates the area in which you can drink at the club. This is called the redline area. The area includes inside the first floor of the club and the front balcony, rear balcony and side balcony. It does not include the stairs leading up to the first floor, the stairs on the west side of the outside

balcony, the stairs leading to the boat yard on the east side of the outside balcony, the control tower and the boat yard itself.

3. Our bar's trading hours .

The club's licence hangs on the wall of the bar for all members to inspect.

Monday – Saturday Between 11am – 10pm.

Sunday Between 11am – 9pm.

Closing times

Special Hours

Friday No more than five days to midnight

Saturdays No more than 12 days to midnight

Sundays No more than 5 days to 10 pm

New Year's Eve To 1am

Please note that last drinks will be served no later than 30 minutes.

Reference here is made to the Somers Yacht Club Rules of incorporation and the Liquor Control Reform Act which are the same.

The main provisions that the Somers Members should be aware of:

4. Serving liquor to under age persons i.e. Under 18 years of age.

All members are responsible to ensure that their party at any particular time does not include underage drinking.

Any person over 18 years of age who procures an alcoholic drink for an underage is liable to the Act.

Nominee Penalty \$17,000.

Person who serves the alcohol person \$17,000.

Underage person drinking on the premises \$700.

Please note that an underage person who is in the presence of their parents or guardian can drink an alcohol beverage whilst partaking in a meal with them.

The bar person has a legal right to ask for proof of age of any patron of the bar.

Continued next page

Continued from page 12

5. Drunk and disorderly

Any person who is drunk and disorderly and is deemed that by the person in control of the bar is not to be served alcohol and can be removed from the premises if deemed to be a problem with the full backing of the law.

Nominee penalty \$17,000

Serving alcohol to an intoxicated person \$17,000

Intoxicated person \$7000

We at the Somers Yacht Club have been an orderly lot and to date we have not had any cases of underage drinking nor have we had any persons being drunk and disorderly. It is still up to every member of the club to be vigilant and be sure that the rules are strictly abided by.

The bar committee is to be commended for the running of the bar (an onerous task) throughout the year. It raises very important funds around the \$30000 per year, which the club can allocate to specific club projects. This is where the social members are really contributing to our club.

It is important that we have volunteers within the club membership to put their names forward to be on the bar roster. Volunteer bar people are what makes the profit. Volunteering for the bar helps you get to know other club members while doing a worthwhile job in support of the club.

Bob Welch
Nominee Somers Yacht Club

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A warm welcome for our new members

ABOUT 20 new members turned out for the cocktail party in December at the clubhouse to welcome them to the club. The party followed a new format from previous years starting in the afternoon after a race. This allowed the new members to meet and interacted with the sailors as well as flag officers.



Pam Farmer enjoys a welcome glass of wine.



New members Leonie and Barry Jones with their granddaughter Vienna



New members Peter Folder and his wife Helen.

Membership

THERE are still a few members who have not renewed their membership for 2015-16.

The rules of the club state that if payment is not received by 31 December, membership will be suspended.

If payment has been overlooked please pay on line, or contact me by phone or email.

If you do not intend to renew, please email or phone and let us know so we can finalise our records.

Yard Storage

WE will be conducting a survey of boats in the yard, (including kayaks, surfboards etc), over the next few weeks.

With space at an absolute premium, payment of the appropriate fee is required.

If you do have a boat or kayak in the yard, please ensure that the fee has been paid.

- Richard Fakhry
0418 576 622

Club Contacts

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Friday Night Dinner	Vic Crust	0450 784 969	vcrust@bigpond.com

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